

WEBINAR

Producer Led Watershed Protection Grants

RACHEL RUSHMANN, PROGRAM MANAGER

LISA SCHULTZ, AGENCY LIAISON

DATCP





Overall goals

Encourage innovative ideas for conservation
Foster locally-led decision making by producers
Improve water quality and soil health

What is a 'producer led group'?



A group of committed, innovative farmers working towards a mutual goal of improving natural resources and farm economics

- Watershed-scale work
- Farmer-to-farmer outreach and education
- Developing innovative approaches to resource concerns and nutrient management issues
- Increasing participation in efforts within agricultural industry

Ch 93.59: Producer led watershed protection grants.



- Nonpoint source pollution abatement activities driven by producer-led groups
- Annual appropriation of \$250,000 available each fiscal year (July 1-June 30)
- No more than \$20,000 per group
- Authority for rulemaking [ATCP 52] to:
 - Define legal entity
 - Describe grant activities
 - Define application process

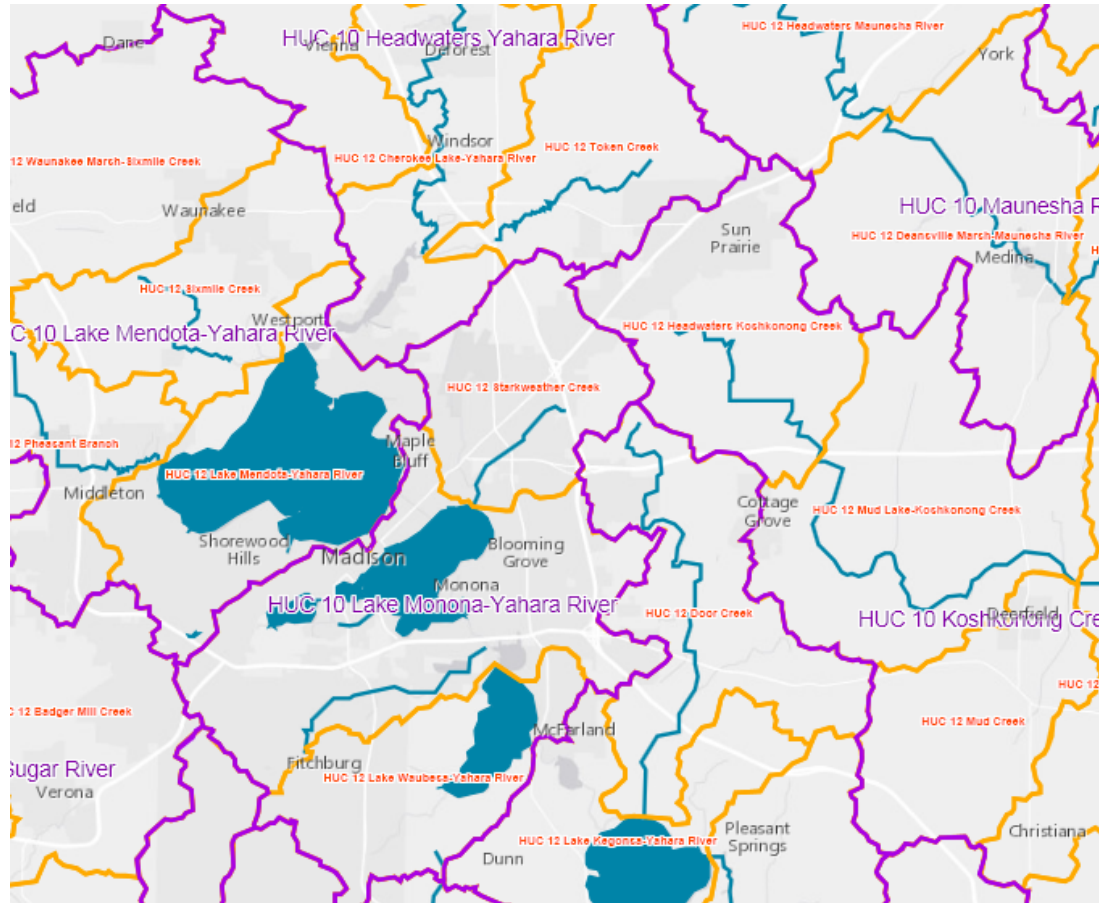
Ch 93.59: Producer led watershed protection grants.



Eligibility criteria

- Must have 5 eligible producers
- Must work and create MOU with **one** of these:
 - DATCP
 - DNR
 - County Land Conservation Committee
 - UW Extension or Discovery Farms
 - A nonprofit conservation organization
- Must provide 50% match (1:1)
- Must lead voluntary nonpoint abatement activities

Watersheds in Wisconsin



Definitions

¹AN "**ELIGIBLE FARM**" MEANS A FARM THAT PRODUCED AT LEAST \$6,000 IN GROSS FARM REVENUES DURING THE TAXABLE YEAR PRECEDING THE YEAR IN WHICH A PETITION IS FILED REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT TO DESIGNATE AN AREA IN WHICH THE FARM IS LOCATED AS AN AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE AREA OR A TOTAL OF AT LEAST \$18,000 IN GROSS FARM REVENUES DURING THE 3 TAXABLE YEARS PRECEDING THE YEAR IN WHICH A PETITION IS FILED.

²A "**NON-PROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION**" MEANS A NONSTOCK CORPORATION, CHARITABLE TRUST, OR OTHER ENTITY WHOSE PURPOSES INCLUDE THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR CONSERVATION OR AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION PURPOSES, THAT IS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 501 (C) (3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, THAT IS EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAX UNDER SECTION 501 (A) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AND THAT IS A QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION UNDER SECTION 170 (H) (3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.

Timeline of Rulemaking Process

ATCP 52

February 2016

- Send out RFP
- Publish emergency rule

March 2016

- Hold public hearing

April 2016

- **Proposals due April 1st**
- Award funding & develop grant contracts

June 2016

- Draft permanent rule

July 2016

- 2nd cycle RFP goes out

November 2016

- Emergency Rule Expires

Timeline of Rulemaking Process

ATCP 52

September 2016

- 2017 grant proposals due

October 2016

- Award 2017 funding & develop grant contracts

February 2017

- Governor's office approval

March/April 2017

- Permanent rule takes effect

August 2017

- 2018 RFP sent out

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Application Process

Request for proposals

Application

Budget instructions

Budget

Match

MOU with collaborator

Contract, if awarded

Reporting



Project Ideas

FOR STARTUP GROUPS:

- Work planning
- Mission statement development
- Goal setting
- Learning/field days
- Bring in experts to discuss important topics such as soil health, nutrient management or existing water quality monitoring data.



Project Ideas

Promote and track conservation practices

Develop innovative approaches to manure storage, stacking, or conservation equipment-sharing

Increase voluntary producer and agribusiness participation

Collaborate with partner(s) for on-farm research

Complete cost-effective edge-of-field or in-stream water quality monitoring

Perform farm walkovers to evaluate farm, manure, and nutrient management practices and identify solutions to resource concerns

Project Ideas

Provide incentive payments to farmers for:

- Soil testing
- Cover crops
- Nutrient and manure management planning
- No-till
- Buffer strips
- Grassed waterways
- Manure composting
- Low-disturbance manure injection
- Other



Eligible costs



Development of work plan, mission development, goal setting, learning days to have experts discuss related topics, development of incentive program, etc.

Incentive payments for conservation practices such as soil testing, cover crop seed, etc.

Field days, workshops, conferences

Personnel (labor) for coordinator role

Mailings, creation of marketing and outreach brochures, handouts, newsletters, factsheets, etc.

Materials and supplies directly associated with the project

Eligible costs



Incentive payments for equipment rentals of innovative technologies

Cost-effective edge-of-field and water quality monitoring

Farm walkovers to identify and evaluate potential or existing resource concerns, nutrient management implementation and other water quality practices

Matching funds (1:1)

Funds from other grantors and/or sponsorship, including DATCP NMFE funding

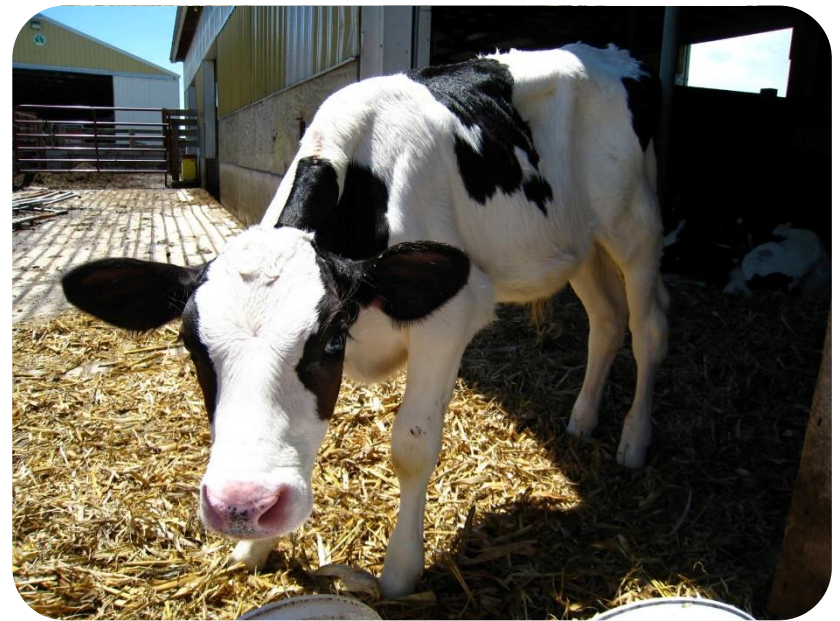
Farmer and/or staff time at a rate of \$25/hour

- Outreach, research, legal, administrative, technical and education services

Facility rentals, mailing, printing, production costs

Purchase of conservation equipment

Cost-share on practice implementation



How to apply?

Application will be posted on our webpage:

http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Land_and_Water_Conservation/index.aspx?Id=237

APPLICATION DUE: APRIL 1st 2016

**Contact program manager to
discuss project idea(s)**

Applications must be submitted electronically to:
Rachel.Rushmann@wi.gov

Website Resources



- Existing producer-led models
- Project ideas
- How to choose a legal entity
- How to draft a MOU
- One pagers from collaborators
- Eligibility criteria
- Timeline
- Watershed map
- Grant opportunity information
- Frequently asked questions

Questions?

Rachel Rushmann 608-224-4622
Rachel.Rushmann@wi.gov

Sara Walling 608-224-4501
Sara.Walling@wi.gov

Lisa Schultz 608-224-4611
LisaJ.Schultz@wi.gov